

Bedfordshire and Luton deal 'significant' for Strand

BEDFORDSHIRE and Luton Mental Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust has just signed a contract to use the CareNotes electronic care record solution.

The news was announced on March 14th and underlines CareNotes' rapid expansion within the NHS mental health sector.

Strand Technology, developers of the CareNotes electronic care record solution, was awarded the contract following a two-way tender process that began last summer.

A project team, comprising of senior management and clinical leaders from the Trust, visited existing customers of the competing companies before unanimously selecting the CareNotes solution.

Lizzy Smith, Senior Clinical Governance for CAMHS at Bedfordshire and Luton, said the Trust had undergone a full, comprehensive and transparent consultation process before selecting CareNotes.

"We looked at everything and involved staff from all parts of our organisation – administration and clinicians. CareNotes has come out on top," said Mrs Smith.

"We are already in the forefront of these developments with Dr Samuel Stein and Miranda Wolpert, from the Trust, both taking a lead in the CAMHS Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC).

"This solution will help us continue to make the best use of new technology and will make a big difference to the Trust. At the moment we are running two separate databases. CareNotes will allow us to bring all our data together into one solution and improve our efficiency.

"If clinicians want to pull reports off the system, they can do it very simply. If administration staff want to pull off their teams' reports, they can do so simply. And if managers wish to pull off information about the whole service, they can do so efficiently," added Mrs Smith.

David Hannam, Sales Director of Strand Technology, welcomed the agreement, saying: "This is a very significant contract for us. The feedback we have had is that the Trust's project team was impressed with CareNotes our presentation and reference sites.

"Bedfordshire and Luton needed a solution that would be able to handle the large volume of complex cases associated with CAMHS services. CareNotes already has a proven track record within the NHS and will unlock huge benefits in delivering care."

"Apart from the breadth and depth of clinical functionality, a key win for the CareNotes solution is that it is part of the CfH Existing Systems Compliance Project

that will see CareNotes, after exhaustive testing, link to the spine and choose and book services.”

Strand Technology is now working with the Trust to roll out CareNotes as quickly as possible. It is expected to be in use within three months.

CareNotes will provide a complete integrated care record system including – Planning of Care, Outcomes monitoring, and Data mapping.

The CareNotes solution has also been developed in line with the CAMHs Outcomes Research Consortium (CORC) requirements – the influential NHS group that is improving services for children with mental health problems.

CareNotes provides CORC outcomes measuring, and helps create reports to ensure Trusts keep up with new guidelines from government and within the NHS itself.

CareNotes will be deployed to all users via the NHSnet, with users accessing CareNotes through Microsoft Explorer, no CareNotes software being installed locally. The contract also involves full and detailed staff training and software development specific Bedfordshire and Luton MHSCP.

Strand Technology will be showcasing CareNotes, and its risk management software PRMS – at the Health Informatics Conference, in Harrogate, from March 20 to 22, 2006.

For more information contact Strand Technology on 0845 66 079 67 or visit stand C12 at HC2006 in Harrogate.

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